

Middle Carboniferous to Early Permian bryozoans from Spitsbergen

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Bryozoans from the Nordenskiöldbreen Formation (Middle Carboniferous Moscovian through Early Permian Sakmarian) and the Gipshuken Formation (late Sakmarian - late Artinskian), from central Spitsbergen, Svalbard, are represented by 36 species (22 genera). One species is new: *Hinaclema svalbardensis* of the order Trepotomata. The bryozoan fauna is typical Boreal and resembles those from the Timan-Pechora region (western Siberia) and the Urals. Similarity indices based on generic composition show that the Boreal fauna became more endemic by the late Early Permian, clearly separated from the Tethyan faunas. Several species have stratigraphic ranges in Spitsbergen longer than elsewhere.

Key words: Bryozoa, Carboniferous, Permian, biostratigraphy, biogeography, Spitsbergen, Svalbard.

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